



# Reflections On The Women's Ordination Issue

By Stephen Bohr

I have read the document prepared by the executive committee of the Southeastern California Conference on the issue of women's ordination to the gospel ministry and I would like to offer the following personal remarks:

The executive committee makes a special plea that the church needs to hear both sides of the issue and Doug Batchelor has presented only one side. To this I answer that both sides have been clearly articulated twice at General Conference sessions. Both points of view were fully presented at the General Conference session in Utrecht (in favor by Dr. Raoul Dederen and against by Dr. Gerard Damsteegt) and the world church voted overwhelmingly against the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. Thus, Southeastern California's claim that Doug Batchelor has gone against church authority is unfounded. Rather, by ordaining women pastors for several years, Southeastern California has shown contempt for the voice of the world church and is in rebellion against legitimate church authority. It is puzzling to me how the executive committee can accuse Doug Batchelor of disloyalty to church authority when he is simply expressing and teaching the view that was voted in General Conference session by the world church.

With regards to the need for equal time on 3ABN because both sides of the issue need to be heard, I consider this unacceptable double talk. The book Women in Ministry, which is quoted approvingly in the executive committee's statement, is the most lopsided presentation in favor of women's ordination that has ever been published in the church. This book gave no opportunity for the opposing side to present its views. The impression was wrongly left that this book was the official Andrews University theological seminary view even though there were opposing voices that were never heard. This book was sent to Seventh-day Adventist leaders all over the world who assumed that the book was the official church view. Would it not have been fair to also send the book Prove all Things (which presents the other side of the issue) to the world field? Would Southeastern California have been in favor of sending out Prove all Things to the same thought leaders who received Women in Ministry? I rather doubt it. So much for a plea for fairness!

With regards to the opportunity to present both sides of the issue on 3ABN, I consider it a good idea with only one condition. Why not have 3ABN present the view in favor of women's ordination and the HOPE channel present the case against? Would this not be 'fair and balanced'? I rather doubt that the HOPE channel would want to go there.

With regards to the texts that were used by Doug Batchelor, contrary to what the executive committee has stated, I believe that he used them correctly as has been shown convincingly in the carefully researched and written book, Prove all Things.

Furthermore, I believe that the executive committee has read far more into Doug Batchelor's presentation than he intended and in some cases they have put words into his mouth.

As Speaker/Director of Secrets Unsealed I have chosen to speak up on this issue because of the following quotation in the Spirit of Prophecy:

"If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God." Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, p. 280

Must we be silent? I think not!

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